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REMARKS

This Amendment and Reply seek to place this application in condition for allowance. In an Office Action dated November 6, 2006 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner issued a restriction requirement designating three groups, namely Group I, including claims 10-17, Group II, including claims 18-25, and Group III, including claims 26-29.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 10-17, without traverse.

The non-elected claims (i.e., claims 18-25 and 26-29) have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, the non-elected claims have been withdrawn from consideration in this application and at this time. Applicant reserves the right to present the same or similar inventive subject matter in this application, at a later date, or in a divisional application.

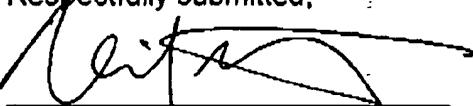
In addition, certain of the claims have been amended to more clearly describe the invention, to improve grammar, and/or to correct inadvertent typographical errors. None of these amendments were motivated by patentability considerations in view of the prior art. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments and consideration of the claimed invention on the merits. Applicant submits that all of the pending claims present patentable subject matter. Accordingly, allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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